

## Message Text

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ORIGIN INT-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-10 L-02 IO-10 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /061 R

66607

DRAAFTED BY: INT:ERICE

APPROVED BY: STANLEY S CARPENTER

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P 262150Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN

INFO CO-CHMN, JCFS SAIPAN

CO-CHMN MPSC SAIPAN

SPKRS/DISTRICT LEGISLATURE MARIANAS

SPKRS/DISTRICT LEGISLATURE MARSHALLS

SPKRS/DISTRICT LEGISLATURE PALAU

SPKRS/DISTRICT LEGISLATURE PONAPE

SPKRS/DISTRICT LEGISLATURE TRUK

SPKRS/DISTRICT LEGISLATURE YAP

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DOTA NO. 434-TT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, TQ

SUBJECT: PUBLIC LANDS SECRETARIAL ORDER

FOR SPAKER OF HOUSE AND PRESIDENT OF SENATE, CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.  
RE TTPI CABLE 692 WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE CONSULTATIONS ON THE  
TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LANDS WOULD BE HIGHLY BENEFICIAL TO ALL PARTIES.  
HOWEVER, AS THE PROPOSED DATE RAISES SCHEDULING CONFLICTS AND  
AS EARLY FINAL ACTION ON SECRETARIAL ORDER IS REQUIRED,  
A TWO WEEK DELAY, UNFORTUNATELY, WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.  
A MEETING ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 9 WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. WE  
WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO MEET IN MICRONESIA IF THAT IS MORE CONVENIENT  
TO YOU.

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THE SECRETARIAL ORDER TO TRANSFER PUBLIC LANDS WILL BE BASED

ON MORTON POLICY STATEMENT OF NOV 1973 WHICH, AS YOU KNOW, WAS ENDORSED BY JCFS AFTER ITS ISSUANCE. SECRETARIAL ORDER WILL SIMPLY FULFILL PROMISE US HAS MADE IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM THE JCFS AND SOME OF THE DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA. IT WAS PUBLICALLY ANNOUNCED MORE THAN TWO MONTHS AGO AT TIME OF VETO MESSAGE ON PUBLIC LANDS THAT HICOM "IS PREPARED TO TAKE WHATEVER EXECUTIVE ACTION MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO FULFILL THE ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO FACILITATE THIS TRANSFER." WE THEREFORE, HAVE DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING YOUR REACTION AT THIS TIME IN VIEW OF PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN ATTEMPTING LEGISLATIVE ACTION. HOWEVER, WE STILL WELCOME YOUR VIEWS AND ADVICE.

SECRETARIAL ORDER WILL VEST HICOM WITH ALL NECESSARY AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC LAND POLICY: HOWEVER NO DISTRICT WILL BE REQUIRED TO ACCEPT PUBLIC LANDS AGAINST ITS DESIRES. THOSE DISTRICTS DESIRING AN EARLY TRANSFER WILL BE REQUIRED ONLY TO FORMALLY REQUEST THE TRANSFER AND MEET SAFEGUARDS OUTLINED IN THE SECRETARY'S LAND POLICY IN ORDER TO PROTECT LOCAL PUBLIC LANDS.

YOUR EXPRESSED SENTIMENTS OF COOPERATION AND DESIRE TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER FOR THE BEST INTEREST OF MICRONESIA ARE WARMLY APPRECIATED. LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT WE FULLY RECIPROCATE THESE VIEWS. IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT WE HAVE RESPONDED TO YOUR REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO THE SECRETARY TAKING FURTHER ACTION. WE BELIEVE THIS SPIRIT OF MUTUAL COOPERATION AND ACCOMMODATION WILL BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE AND WILL FACILITATE THE EARLY TRANSFER OF THESE LANDS TO LOCAL CONTROL UPON LOCAL REQUEST.

YOUR FURTHER VIEWS ON TIMING AND SITE WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED. BEST REGARDS. CARPENTER SENDS. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TERRITORIAL REVERSION, STATE LAND, TRUSTEESHIPS (UN)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 NOV 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE260929  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ORIGIN INT  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 NOV 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 NOV 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <19-Nov-2002 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PUBLIC LANDS SECRETARIAL ORDER FOR SPAKER OF HOUSE AND PRESIDENT OF SENATE, CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PBOR, TQ, US  
**To:** HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005